

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

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O 012138Z MAY 76 ZFF5
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE
USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 104938 TOSEC 110537

EXDIS, FOR AMBASSADOR PICKERING FROM ATHERTON

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MASS, JO, US, SA, UR

SUBJECT: JORDAN AIR DEFENSE

REF: (A) AMMAN 2329, (B) AMMAN 2330

1. THE FAHD LETTER TO HUSSEIN OFFERS AN OPPORTUNITY
TO HELP STRAIGHTEN OUT
FUNDING PROBLEM. BASED ON AMB. PORTER'S REPORTING, OUR
VIEW IS THAT THE SAUDIS WOULD LIKE TO ACCEPT OUR ASSURANCES
THAT HUSSEIN CONSIDERS THE DEAL STILL NEGOTIABLE BUT NEED
DIRECT CONFIRMATION FROM HUSSEIN HIMSELF. (AMB. PORTER
ADVISED CP HASSAN TO DEAL WITH FIRST THINGS FIRST AND
CORRECT THE MISUNDERSTANDINGS CAUSED BY PREVIOUS LETTERS AND
PRESS LEAKS).

2. THE FAHD LETTER IN OUR OPINION SEEKS CLARIFICATION OF
HUSSEIN'S POSITION (I.E., THAT THE DEAL WITH THE U.S. IS
NOT NULL AND VOID),WHILE DESCRIBING THE SAUDI POSITION "UP
TO THE PRESENT". YOU THEREFORE SHOULD ENCOURAGE HUSSEIN

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TO REPLY TO FAHD AND TO MAKE CLEAR HIS POSITION IN SUCH A

WAY AS TO ENCOURAGE THE SAUDIS TO BE RESPONSIVE TO THE U.S.
SUGGESTIONS FOR FINANCING AN EFFECTIVE 14 BATTERY - 100 GUN
AIR DEFENSE SYSTEM SATISFYING JORDAN'S NEEDS.

3. SUCH A REPLY SHOULD AVOID ALL REHASHING OF PAST MIS-
UNDERSTANDINGS, AND CONCENTRATE ON MAKING CLEAR THAT
HUSSEIN CONSIDERS THE HAWK/VULCAN DEAL TO BE ALIVE, THAT
HE UNDERSTANDS THE US HAS BEEN TRYING TO WORK OUT AN
ARRANGEMENT WITH THE SAUDIS SATISFACTORY TO ALL CONCERNED,
AND THAT HE REMAINS OPEN-MINDED AS TO THE OUTCOME OF THE
US-SAUDI DISCUSSIONS.
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